

# Arizona Criminal Justice Commission

## Views and News

Our mission is to sustain and enhance the coordination, cohesiveness, productivity, and effectiveness of the criminal justice system in Arizona

October 2004

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Yuma County Sheriff

**Dennis Garrett**  
ACJC Vice Chairman  
Department of Public Safety Director

**Joseph Arpaio**  
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**Chris Skelly**  
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**Richard Yost**  
El Mirage Police Chief

**John A. Blackburn Jr.**  
ACJC Executive Director

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### To receive Views and News via e-mail...

The Arizona Criminal Justice Commission Views and News newsletter is published in electronic format. To subscribe or unsubscribe to Views and News, please e-mail ACJC Public Information Officer Mary Marshall at [mmmarshall@acjc.state.az.us](mailto:mmmarshall@acjc.state.az.us).

All other inquiries regarding Views and News should be directed to Mary Marshall at the address above.

### ACJC receives more than \$1 million in DNA/forensics funds from NIJ

On Sept. 21, the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission (ACJC) was awarded more than \$1 million from the Department of Justice's National Institute of Justice for DNA/forensics improvement initiatives in the state of Arizona. ACJC applied for the funding under three grant proposals: the Paul Coverdell National Forensic Sciences Improvement Act, the Laboratory Capacity Enhancement Program and the DNA Forensic Casework Backlog Reduction program. Details of each grant's funding objectives, priorities and awarded amounts follow.

[See full story](#)

### Salute to a Friend: Remembering Dr. John Blackburn

By Joe Easton

The Arizona Criminal Justice Commission and the citizens of Arizona lost a good friend and a champion of justice last week with the passing of Dr. John A. Blackburn. John played an integral role in the creation and passage of much of the legislation affecting criminal justice during the past 20 years. He will be sorely missed by his many friends, associates, and all others who knew him.

[See full story](#)

### Phoenix VIP/ PSN program a success

On Sept. 29, the Phoenix Police Department held a joint press conference with the U.S. Attorney's Office and the City of Phoenix Mayor's Office to announce the success of a crime reduction initiative known as the Central City Violence Impact Project (VIP). The department cited statistics indicating a reduction of violent crime by nearly 30 percent in a nine-month period.

[See full story](#)

### John A. Blackburn Jr. appointed as executive director

During the annual July meeting, the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission commissioners voted unanimously to appoint John A. Blackburn Jr. as ACJC executive director. Blackburn, previously the ACJC's legislative program manager, had been serving at interim executive director since March.

[See full story](#)

### Byrne and LLEBG funding status

Over the summer, the criminal justice community closely watched the Justice Department appropriations process in Congress. The points of interest: the Byrne State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Grants and the Local Law Enforcement Block Grants (LLEBG) programs administered by the Justice Department. Of concern: proposed cuts to the program that would reduce the funding levels by 37 percent.

[See full story](#)

### Branham gets dunked



Former ACJC Executive Director Mike Branham gets dunked for a good cause! Branham, now director of Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections, held a State Employee Charitable Campaign fundraiser. ACJC employees demonstrated their support by dropping Branham in the dunk tank! The event raised more than \$200 for SECC.

### News Briefs

[See all news](#)

#### Arizona's criminal justice agencies must comply with FBI's TCP/IP requirements by September 2005

Following the FBI's mandate for criminal justice agencies to enhance computer network security, the state of Arizona's criminal justice agencies are working to upgrade its systems by the FBI's September 2005 deadline.

#### NCJA seeks comments on a draft assessment of eGMS best practices

The NCJA seeks comments on a draft assessment of best practices and promising approaches in implementing Electronic Grants Management Systems.

### DUI Abatement grants forthcoming

The Oversight Council on Driving or Operating Under the Influence Abatement has been established to distribute grant funds to local jurisdictions for the purpose of DUI enforcement. Information regarding grant opportunities will be forthcoming and posted at [www.acjc.state.az.us](http://www.acjc.state.az.us). For more information, contact Program Manager Jerry Hardt, 602/364-1158.